

providing funding for civilian infrastructure improvements required as a result of the realignment of military installations and the relocation of military personnel on Guam. Congress has granted this authority before, most recently during the realignment of forces to Bangor, Washington. The authority granted to the Secretary addresses concerns raised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and our community in regards to mitigating the impact of the buildup on our local infrastructure. The authority granted in Section 2822 also expands on President Obama's request for \$50 million in transfer authority to modernize infrastructure at the Port of Guam. To accommodate the influx of servicemembers and their dependents, our island will have to modernize aging infrastructure, build and repair roads, improve water and wastewater capacity, and increase capacity at the Port of Guam among many other preparations. This authority will assist our island in preparing for the realignment of forces to Guam and mitigate impact to our community.

Section 2824 is also important as it allows the Secretary of Defense to transfer rights and management authority of Navy's water and wastewater system to the Guam Waterworks Authority. This provision will create one single water and wastewater system on the island, create economies of scale, and will remove redundancies in our current system.

Most importantly, I worked to include an amendment that incorporated the full text of H.R. 44, "The Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act," to the National Defense Authority Act for Fiscal Year 2011. This provision would recognize the people of Guam for their sacrifices during World War II when Guam was occupied by enemy forces. With the realignment of forces to Guam, it is important that this longstanding issue be resolved so that the military build-up on Guam is implemented with community support. The Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act was adopted by the House as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, but was subsequently removed during conference with the Senate. I thank my colleagues for voting to adopt this provision once again.

I want to thank Chairman IKE SKELTON of the House Armed Services for his leadership on issues affecting the readiness of our military forces. I look forward to working with my colleagues toward passage of H.R. 5136 by the full House of Representatives.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING HOUSING FUNDING TO COMBAT AIDS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 137, "Expressing the sense of the Congress that the lack of adequate housing must be addressed as a barrier to effective HIV prevention, treatment, and care, and that the United States should make a commitment to providing adequate funding for developing housing as a response to the AIDS pandemic," as introduced by my

distinguished colleague from New York, Representative NADLER.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to be a serious issue in the United States. A growing body of empirical research shows that HIV patients' housing and other socioeconomic factors are of equal or even greater importance than their medical care or personal health behavior in determining their long term health status. 70% of all persons with HIV or AIDS have reported periods of homelessness or unstable housing in their lives, the rates of HIV infection are 3–16 times higher for those who are homeless or have unstable housing, and the HIV/AIDS death rate is 7–9 times higher for homeless adults than the general population.

The link between poverty and HIV risk and outcomes is well established. Poor living conditions such as homelessness and overcrowding undermine safety and efforts to promote responsible sexual behavior. A lack of stable housing greatly reduces people's ability to reduce their risk of HIV, as people who are homeless or have unstable housing are 2–6 times more likely than the general population to use hard drugs, exchange needles, or trade sex for money or shelter.

Despite this evidence that adequate housing is an important effect on HIV prevention, the housing resources devoted to the national response to HIV/AIDS have been inadequate and housing has been largely ignored in policy discussions at the international level.

H. Con. Res. 137 recognizes that stable, affordable housing is a key component of any effective strategy to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as its treatment and care. It further recognizes that the United States should make a serious commitment to providing adequate funding for developing housing as a response to the AIDS pandemic. I am proud to support this resolution, and strongly urge my colleagues to join me.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Chair, we've heard these arguments before.

The Secretary of the Army said he was concerned about how the proposed change would affect "the efficiency . . . of the Army."

A five-star General warned of "social experiments" and worried that with reform in military personnel policy ". . . we may have difficulty attaining high morale."

Those are not quotations from 2010 about the right of gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the military. They're from more than 60 years ago, during the debate over racial integration of the armed forces.

Does anyone believe they were right? If so, please speak up.

Is anyone prepared to argue that our military has suffered from the full participation of African-Americans in its ranks?

I hope we all remember this history lesson as we prepare to vote on a repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, an embarrassment unworthy of a great country and a great military.

It is responsible for the discharge of 13,000 honorable Americans, men and women who were told their service is dispensable . . . not because of how they behaved, but because of who they are.

It does violence to cherished American values like equality, inclusion, and tolerance. And it damages our national security too.

Given the military's recruitment challenges at a moment that we're still, unfortunately, fighting two wars . . . it is incomprehensible to me that we would reject any capable person who wishes to serve.

It was particularly galling to watch as hundreds of language specialists who could speak Farsi and Arabic were dismissed just when they were needed most, when our occupation of Iraq began.

The assertion that openly gay service members would undermine unit cohesion is just bunk, Madam Chair.

It is an argument based on fear, not fact. The research suggests that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are comfortable serving side-by-side with fellow soldiers who happen to be gay or lesbian.

To suggest otherwise is to insult our troops, as the author of the amendment Mr. MURPHY has pointed out. Because the morale argument assumes our soldiers are so unprofessional—and even unpatriotic—that they would let another soldier's sexual orientation distract them from the mission.

Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, may have put it best when he said, "I cannot escape being troubled by . . . a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens. For me personally, it comes down to integrity—theirs as individuals and ours as an institution."

And now it comes down to our integrity, the integrity of those of us privileged to serve in the people's House.

We must have the integrity to do what's right . . . to support our troops and strengthen our military . . . by repealing the cruel and un-American Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

RECOGNIZING NYASHA SPROW AS A STATE HONOREE IN THE 2010 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nyasha Sprow from Prince William County, Va., for being a state honoree in the 2010 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program. Nyasha is a volunteer with the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross and a seventh-grader at Virginia Virtual Academy. Additionally, she has become a passionate advocate for organ and tissue donation.

Nyasha has become a spokesperson for the National Kidney foundation and she works to